

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 075152
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/EGY:D E ZWEIFEL:MM
APPROVED BY NEA:N A VELIOTES
T:W MARSH
L:J MICHEL
PM:R ERICSON
NEA/EGY:D O NEWBERRY
S/S-O:SVELARGA

-----106962 231929Z /53

R 231816Z MAR 78 ZFF6
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

S E C R E T STATE 075152

EXDIS DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, EG, US, IT

SUBJECT: MIG MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

REF: A. STATE 63250, B. STATE 56171 (NOTAL), C. CAIRO 6938
(NOTAL), D. ROME 4978

1. AS ANTICIPATED (REFTEL B), VADER MET WITH DEPARTMENT
AND DOD OFFICIALS MARCH 8. AT MEETING, IT WAS AGREED THAT
DECISION ON WHETHER LOCKHEED COULD CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS
WITH AOI WOULD HAVE TO BE REFERRED TO HIGH LEVELS WITHIN
DEPARTMENT.

2. UNDER SECRETARY BENSON SUBSEQUENTLY DECIDED THAT THE
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USG IS NOT PREPARED TO AGREE TO ARRANGEMENTS OTHER THAN
THOSE ORIGINALLY CONTEMPLATED--I.E. THAT WORK WOULD BE DONE
OUTSIDE OF EGYPT WITH THIRD COUNTRY FIRMS AS PRIME CONTRAC-
TORS AND THAT NO AMERICAN PERSONNEL WOULD BE STATIONED
PERMANENTLY IN EGYPT IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROJECT.

3. THIS DECISION WAS RELAYED TO VADER ON MARCH 20. HE

EXPRESSED HIS DISAPPOINTMENT AND OPINED THAT IN ANY EVENT, GOE WILL GO AHEAD WITH PROGRAM IN EGYPT. VADER MADE PLAIN THAT HE WILL TRY TO GET DEPARTMENT TO REVIEW AND REVERSE ITS DECISION. DURING TELEPHONE CONVERSATION, HE BRIEFLY

TOYED WITH IDEA THAT NO MUNITIONS CONTROL LICENSE REQUIRED FOR WHAT LOCKHEED PRESENTLY PROPOSING, BUT BACKED OFF WHEN DEPARTMENT OFFICER REMINDED HIM OF LOCKHEED'S EARLIER COMMITMENTS IN THIS REGARD. NONETHELESS, HE CLEARLY WILL CONTINUE TO WORK FOR FORMULA WHEREBY LOCKHEED MIGHT BE PERMITTED TO PARTICIPATE IN REHABILITATION AND MAINTENANCE PROGRAM.

4. VADER INQUIRED INTO DEPARTMENT'S READING OF ITALIAN GOVERNMENT'S POSITION. DEPARTMENT OFFICER RESPONDED THAT WE BELIEVE THAT ITALIAN GOVERNMENT FULLY UNDERSTANDS THAT AERITALIA AND ALFA ROMEO ARE OUT OF THE BIDDING (REFTELS A AND D).

5. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE COPY OF AGREEMENT VADER LEFT WITH AOI (PARA 5 OF REFTTEL C). WE ALSO WOULD BE INTERESTED TO KNOW WHETHER GOE HAS COMMUNICATED CONTRACT DECISIONS TO UNSUCCESSFUL BIDDERS (PARA 3, REFTTEL A).
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